Blue Print for Tourism Development

5085. SHR1 P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government plans big boost for tourism" which appeared in the Economic Times, dated the 15th April, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the plans for boosting tourism in the country;

(c) whether any blue print has been drawn-up in this regard for a balanced tourism development involving various parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total allocation therefor during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIJAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following new schemes have been included in the Annual Plan 2002-03 for development of tourism infrastructure and promotion of tourism in the country:

(1) Integrated development of tourism circuits.

(2) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development.

(3) Assistance for large Revenue generating projects.

(4) Capacity Building for Service providers.

(c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan the department of Tourism, Government of India proposes to identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them to international standards. During the Annual Plan 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 41.50 crores has been earmarked for the integrated development of six circuits. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments.

(d) The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 2900 crores for the Department of Tourism for Tenth Five Year Plan for development and promotion of Tourism in the country.